

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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UNCLAS STATE 163773 TOSEC 060112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT GEORGE F. WILL COLUMN, FRIDAY, JULY 11, BALSUN TITLED "DETENTE GIVES BREZHNEV CONTROL OF FORD'S APPOINTMENTS CALENDAR."
2. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO EXPEL ALEXANDER I. SOLZHENITSYN FROM THE REPUBLIC, NOT ONLY AS A HANDS-ACROSS-THE-BARBED-WIRE GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITS DETENTE PARTNER, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO TO SAVE THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ATTENDANTS FROM NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS.
3. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME MR. SOLZHENITSYN, WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE, HAS TAXED THE NERVES OF THE MIGHTY. LAST YEAR, LEONID I. BREZHNEV, THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER, HAVING DECIDED THAT HE COULD NOT CONVENIENTLY KILL MR. SOLZHENITSYN AND COULD NOT ENDURE THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE, EXPELLED HIM.

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4. MR. SOLZHENITSYN BECAME A NUISANCE TO GERALD R. FORD WHEN THE AFL-CIO PRESIDENT, GEORGE MEANY, INVITED THE AUTHOR TO WASHINGTON TO GIVE A SPEECH IN WHICH HE REITERATED HIS LOW OPINION OF DETENTE, AS THE U.S. PRACTICES IT. HE

BELIEVES THIS POLICY REDUCES THE U.S. TO CRAVEN DEGRADING RETICENCE ABOUT SLAVE LABOR, CONCENTRATION CAMPS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

5. MR. SOLZHENITSYN IS, OF COURSE, CORRECT: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THINKS SUCH RETICENCE IS "NECESSARY" LEST THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT GET ANGRY AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT U.S. TRADE SUBSIDIES, OR ENGAGE IN OUR MEMORABLE GRAIN DEALS. BUT MERE TRUTHFULNESS DOES NOT REDEEM POLITICALLY INCONVENIENT SPEECH, AND MR. SOLZHENITSYN CARRIES FREE SPEECH TO INCONVENIENT CONCLUSIONS.

6. HIS PRESENCE HERE POSED A PROBLEM: SHOULD MR. FORD MEET WITH HIM? IN COPING WITH THIS PROBLEM, THE PRESIDENT CONTRIVED TO CONFIRM MR. SOLZHENITSYN'S POINT WHILE SNUBBING HIM FOR HAVING MADE IT.

7. MR. FORD NERVOUSLY DIAGNOSED MR. SOLZHENITSYN'S PRESENCE HERE AS A FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM, AND SUMMONED ADVICE FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH COPEs WITH SUCH THREATS TO THE NATION'S SECURITY. HE AND AIDES BRAINSTORMED ABOUT HOW TO JUSTIFY SNUBBING THE MAN WHO, OUTSIDE U.S. AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MORAL HEROES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

8. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, SEVERAL AIDES, SHOWING A FLAIR FOR BASENESS THAT WOULD HAVE STOOD THEM IN GOOD STEAD WITH THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, QUESTIONED MR. SOLZHENITSYN'S MENTAL STABILITY. THE IDEA OF AMERICAN POLITICIANS RENDERING NEGATIVE JUDGMENTS ABOUT MR. SOLZHENITSYN'S MENTAL HEALTH HAS AN ANTIC CHARM, BUT SUCH JUDGMENTS WERE NOT PUBLICLY ADVANCED TO JUSTIFY THE SNUB, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT PLAY IN PEORIA.

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9. RONALD H. NESSEN, AS PRESS SECRETARY THE KEEPER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL IMAGE, EXPLAINED THAT MR. FORD COULD NOT SEE MR. SOLZHENITSYN BECAUSE OF A "CROWDED SCHEDULE."

10. MR. NESSEN ADDED: "FOR IMAGE REASONS THE PRESIDENT DOES LIKE TO HAVE SOME SUBSTANCE IN HIS MEETINGS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT HE WOULD GAIN BY A MEETING WITH SOLZHENITSYN."

11. MR. NESSEN MAY HAVE A POINT, BUT, IF SO, IT REFLECTS
ON MR. FORD'S ABILITY TO RECIEVE, RATHER THAN ON MR.
SOLZHENITSYN'S ABILITY TO IMPART, WISDOM.

12. OBVIOUSLY MR. FORD DECIDED THAT MEETING MR. SOLZHENIT-
SYN WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH DETENTE. OBVIOUSLY MR.
SOLZHENITSYN IS CORRECT: DETENTE, AS PRACTICED BY THE U.S.,
PREVENTS EVEN GESTURES OF SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

13. DETENTE HAS CONFERRED UPON MR. BREZHNEV VETO POWER
OVER THE APPOINTMENTS CALENDAR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES. PERHAPS MR. BREZHNEV, IN THE SPIRIT OF
DETENTE, WOULD REFRAIN FROM SEEING PEOPLE OFFENSIVE TO THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT'S MORAL SENSIBILITIES--IF IT HAD ANY.
(END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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